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ORIGIN OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES SECTION OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE^{1, 2, 3}

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ABSTRACT

Beginning with the organizational meeting of the Ohio State Academy of Science 31 December 1891, papers were read sporadically over many years on medical subjects. At first these were prepared largely by biologists and from the biological point of view. In 1917 a section was created for Physiology, Anatomy, Bacteriology, and Pathology, and its name was changed the following year to Section of Medical Sciences. Medical doctors for the first time then joined the Academy in numbers, but the emphasis of that section remained biological. Beginning in 1929, the program has been medical in nature and, in recent years, many of the sectional meetings have been held in medical centers.

When The Ohio State University Biological Club held its meeting 3 November 1891, the retiring president, William R. Lazenby, at the conclusion of his presidential address, strongly advocated that steps be taken to form a state academy of science. He pressed for immediate action stating, "The initiatory steps toward the founding of such an academy should be taken by this club, and tonight." A committee was appointed immediately, with Lazenby as chairman, to arrange an organizational meeting, which was called on 31 December 1891. Officers were elected, and a special committee drafted a constitution and a set of bylaws. While this committee was at work, the remaining delegates selected ten papers for presentation from a total of 26 which had been submitted for this meeting. Two of them were related to medical science—"Biological Training as Preliminary to the Study of Medicine," by H. E. Chapin of Ohio University, and "Protective Inoculation," by H. J. Detmers of The Ohio State University. This was the beginning of the Ohio State Academy of Science, created on the last day of 1891. A certificate of incorporation was signed 12 March 1892 by 59 charter members. Soon the name was shortened, in common usage and in the published reports, and in 1914 the name was officially changed to the Ohio Academy of Science.

In the early years of the Academy, interest in medicine was sporadic. The first medical paper was the report "Hygienic Dangers of Modern Civilization," which Edwin L. Mosely of Sandusky read in 1894 at the third annual meeting held in Columbus. Two years later the Academy passed a resolution which was transmitted to U. S. Senator Sherman opposing passage of a bill that would abolish vivisection in the District of Columbia. The resolution read in part that we "trust that Congress will in its wisdom see the impolicy of in any such way interfering with the progress of science and the medical art." At the meeting for

¹The Academy Historian read this paper to the Medical Sciences Section of the Ohio Academy of Science on 17 April 1959, and to the Ohio Academy of Medical History, 20 April 1963.

²This paper is based upon the annual reports and the secretary's records of The Ohio Academy of Science which are stored in the archives of the Academy.

³Manuscript received December 1, 1965.

1898, also held in Columbus, Dr. James D. Beer of Wooster read a paper entitled "Modern Hygiene Versus Mosaic Hygiene."

At first, the meetings of the Academy were general in nature and were attended by the entire membership. Medicine was represented again at the 9th annual meeting, held in Cleveland in 1899, when R. G. Schnee read a paper on "Diphtheria and Antitoxin." At the 12th annual meeting, held in Columbus in 1902, Prof. W. R. Lazenby of The Ohio State University delivered the presidential address entitled "The Dietetic Value of Fruit." In addition, President Lazenby called upon the Hon. J. H. Outhwaite, President of the newly founded society for the suppression of tuberculosis, to speak concerning the work of that society. He gave a number of important facts regarding tuberculosis and what was being done to lessen its ravages.

The American Microscopical Society met with the Ohio Academy of Science during a summer field meeting in July of 1905 at Cedar Point. Dr. Henry B. Ward gave the presidential address to the former society, concerning "The Relation of Animals to Disease." A symposium sponsored jointly by the two groups centered on "Animals as Parasites and Carriers of Disease." Medical papers given at the meeting included a report on "Trypanosomes and Disease," given by Dr. Ward. At the annual meeting held in Cincinnati that fall, Dr. J. H. Todd of Wooster read a paper on "The Relation of Medicine to Anthropology."

Beginning with the 17th meeting in 1908, a new constitution provided for formal sections, which could be organized with the provision that "members not less than 15 in number may by special permission of the Academy unite to form a section for the investigation of any branch of science. Each section shall bear the name of the science which it represents." The first three sections (zoology, botany, and geology) were organized at the following meeting, but none was created for medical science at that time. The next medical paper appeared at the 19th annual meeting held in 1909 and was a report on "Milk-Sickness in Sandusky County during 1909" by E. L. Moseley. Five years later, he returned with another report on "The Cause of Milk-Sickness and Trembles." At that same meeting, Dr. D. S. White, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State University, gave a special lecture on hoof and mouth disease.

In 1917 a new section was formed, by the petition of 16 members, entitled "Physiology, Anatomy, Bacteriology, and Pathology." Six papers were read to this new group. The following year, the name was changed to the Section of Medical Sciences and, for the first time, medical doctors joined the Academy in number. As a result of World War I, there was no further activity until 1924. In the early days of the Academy, those presenting studies of a medical nature were largely naturalists, whose papers on medical topics were related to their studies of natural history. After 1924 M. D.'s appeared on the program frequently, although zoological aspects of medicine still predominated for a period of time. In addition to the regular sectional meeting in 1924, a joint session was held with the Section on Zoology. The following year there was a special lecture on "Orchard Spraying and Human Health," by J. S. Houser of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, and the next year a symposium was organized on animal parasitism, including medical parasitology. There was also a symposium on "Biological Training for Medicine and Dentistry." The program for 1926 included a report on "Occupational Diseases Reported to the Ohio State Department of Health for the 5-Year Period Ending June 30, 1925," by Dr. E. R. Hayhurst and Dr. D. J. Kindel of the Department of Public Health and Sanitation at The Ohio State University. The next year these same authors reported on "Silicosis: an X-Ray Study of 919 Ohio Quarrymen."

In 1928 Dr. D. A. Minder presented "A Statistical Study of Infectious Diseases in Columbus for the Past 25 Years." In 1929 physicians, for the first time,

composed the bulk of the program. A paper of particular note was entitled "The Relation of Climate to the Incidence and Severity of Certain Metabolic Diseases," given by Dr. C. A. Mills of the University of Cincinnati. Between 1933 and 1937, there was a series of symposia, titled as follows: "Symposium on Blood Discrasias," "Symposium on Endocrinology," "Symposium on Virus and Diseases," and "Symposium on the Neurone."

In 1937, Dr. T. Wingate Todd of Western Reserve University gave a special invitational address entitled "Certificates of Growing Up and Growing Old." The presidential address that year was presented by Dr. Charles A. Doan, The Ohio State University, on "Modern Medicine, the Crossroads of the Social and Physical Sciences."

In 1940 the Academy celebrated its golden anniversary. In a series of symposia, medical science was represented with special programs on hearing, radiation and the cancer problem, and the nervous system. Departments of The Ohio State University concerned with medical sciences and the State Departments of Public Health prepared special medical exhibits.

In 1942 papers appeared on the growing field of radiation in medicine. A study on the history of medicine appeared for the first time in 1947, when Dr. L. F. Edwards of The Ohio State University gave a report on "Gov. Edward Tiffin: Pioneer Doctor, Lay-Preacher, Statesman." In 1948 radioactivity became prominent for the first time in the program, with the organization of a symposium on radioactive substances in biology and medicine. This was followed in 1950 by a paper presented by Dr. J. L. Morton, The Ohio State University, on "The Role of Radioactive Cobalt 60 in Cancer Therapy." The next year Dr. L. F. Edwards, anatomist and medical historian, outlined "The Evolution of Medical Education in Ohio (1787-1952)." Dr. Edwards has long served as Chairman of the Committee on Medical History and Archives for the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society.

An important symposium was held in 1956 on problems of preparation for medical college. This was published in the September, 1956, issue of the *Ohio Journal of Science*.

Currently, the Section of Medical Sciences usually holds its annual meeting at some medical center near the location of the annual meeting whenever this has been possible to arrange. Such an arrangement has increased opportunities for those in academic fields to become more closely acquainted with medical teaching, practice, and research of the present day.
